

CAREL D. VAN LÖBEN SELS  
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WALNUT GROVE, CA 95690  
916-776-1223

DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2003

TO: D.W.R. NORTH DELTA IMPROVEMENT GROUP

FROM: TOPPER VAN LOBEN SELS

RE: **COMMENTS REGARDING CALFED NORTH DELTA FLOOD/ECOSYSTEM  
IMPROVEMENTS SCOPING**

THE GOAL FOR THE NORTH DELTA FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT MUST BE 100 YEAR FLOOD PROTECTION FROM A SINGLE SURGE 100 YEAR EVENT AND 100 YEAR PROTECTION FROM A 1986 TYPE TWO SURGE FLOOD EVENT.

TO ACHIEVE THE ABOVE GOAL, THE CONCEPTUAL ALTERNATIVES MAY HAVE TO BE COMBINED. AFTER RUNNING THE ABOVE TWO FLOOD SCENARIOS THROUGH THE MODEL, THE RESULTS MAY SHOW THAT A COMBINATION OF DREDGING, LEVEE SETBACKS, AND A STATIN ISLAND RETENTION BASIN WILL GIVE THE NORTH DELTA 100 YEAR FLOOD PROTECTION.

THERE IS ONE CONCEPTUAL ALTERNATIVE THAT MUST BE INCLUDED AND REVIEWED AS PART OF ANY NORTH DELTA AREA FLOOD CONTROL PLANNING PROCESS. THE NASHVILLE DAMN OR ANY OTHER UPSTREAM RETENTION AREAS ON THE COSUMNES RIVER WOULD HAVE TREMENDOUS POSITIVE IMPACTS ON AQUATIC AND TERRESTRIAL HABITATS AND AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDE FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER STORAGE. DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS PARTS OF THE COSUMNES RIVER GO DRY. THE EXPERTS AT THE NATURES CONSERVANCY AGREE THAT SUMMER WATER RELEASES IN THE COSUMNES SYSTEM WOULD BE A BIG IMPROVEMENT OVER THE STATUS QUO.

WHEN A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE IS CONSTRUCTED, THE ONLY WAY TO MEET THE GOAL OF 100 YEAR FLOOD PROTECTION IS TO INCLUDE A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE THAT MUST BE PART OF THE CALFED FLOOD SOLUTION. THE DESIGN AND FLOW RATES OF THE PROJECT MUST BE MAINTAINED OVER TIME. AN EXAMPLE IS ONGOING DREDGING OF THE SOUTH AND NORTH FORKS OF THE MOKELUMNE RIVER.

WITH PROPER PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION, AND MAINTENANCE THE 100 YEAR FLOOD PROTECTION IS ACHIEVABLE PROVIDED THAT CALFED OR SOME OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY CREATE AND ENFORCE A NO NET GAIN IN FLOOD ELEVATION POLICY. WE MUST ADDRESS THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF SACRAMENTO, ELK GROVE, GALT, AND LODI DEVELOPMENTS AND ASSOCIATED RUN-OFF.

CAREL D. VAN LÖBEN SELS  
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DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2003

TO: PAUL BOWERS, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

FROM: TOPPER VAN LOBEN SELS

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